

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 17 of page 7 of the Specification as follows:

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Note that in another embodiment, the portable unit 14 can communicate directly (via a wired or wireless system using any of the communications techniques discussed above) with the parts requisition center 22, the customer center 24 and the MDSC 20, rather than communicating through the service shop 16. The portable unit 14 can also interrogate an on-board monitoring and diagnostic system (not specifically shown in Figure 1) of the locomotive 12. The on-board monitoring and diagnostic system is described in detail in U.S. Patent No. 6,487,478, ~~the patent application entitled "On-Board Monitor for a Railroad Locomotive", application number 09/696,368, filed on October 25, 2000, (Attorney docket number 624226.133/20 LC 1978)~~, which is assigned to the owner of the present invention. The on-board monitor monitors certain operational parameters on the locomotive 12 and reports faults and anomalous conditions directly to the MDSC 20 via an independent communications system, as described in the aforementioned patent application.

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Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 14 of page 11 of the Specification as follows:

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An expert repository 42 stores the repair recommendations authored at the MDSC 20. These recommendations include: suggested repairs based on operational and/or failure information extracted from the on-board monitoring system of the locomotive derived from symptoms reported by the repair technician, or planned maintenance actions, or field modifications or upgrades. The recommendation can include suggested trouble shooting actions to further refine the repair recommendation and links to appropriate repair instructions, schematics, wiring diagrams, parts catalogs, and trouble shooting guides to make the diagnosis and repair process easier. Diagnosis information can be returned to the MDSC 20 in real time via the portable unit 14 for further analysis in the development and refinement of a repair recommendation. At the MDSC 20, expert systems, artificial intelligence tools, and case-based reasoning tools are used to develop the specific repair recommendations stored in the expert

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repository 42. These tools are discussed in greater detail in U.S. Patent No. 6,651,034 B1, the commonly owned patent application entitled "Apparatus and Method for Performance and Fault Data Analysis" bearing patent application number 09/629,597, filed on July 31, 2000, (Attorney docket number 624226.144/20 LC 1974, 1975, 1976, 1998). For locomotives having an onboard monitor that generates a specific code for a specific operational fault, that code can be used to retrieve relevant diagnosis and repair information from the expert repository 42. The expert repository 42 can also include special procedures providing the technician with up-to-date procedures for performing certain tasks on the locomotive 12.

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